

Ferry Elementary School -Leader in Me at Lunchtime

Ferry Elementary School students are in their second year of *The Leader In Me*, based on Stephen Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People". Funded by the GPFPE, *The Leader In Me* is a whole school transformational model that allows educators to unleash students' full potential based on the idea that every child can be a leader.

Twice a month, many Ferry students meet at lunchtime to plan activities, events, and ways to make their community a better place. In Ms. Flanagan's classroom, Lighthouse Leaders from every grade have been working on posters for the Kindness Challenge. Earlier in the month they distributed bags with lists of hygiene items needed for "Kindness Care Kits for Crossroads" (a social service agency in Detroit).

The Lighthouse Leaders also prepare for the upcoming Townhall Meeting assembly for the entire school. This month, the third grade will be sharing Put First Things First success stories - Habit 3.

In Mrs. Lassiter's classroom, The Nature Club meets to make posters of animals that live in their nature center. Other lunchtime projects include a Nature Center Scavenger Hunt, identifying animals that live in the nature center, partner research on the nature center using computers and library books, and making videos of animal research for the morning announcements. When the weather warms up, they will be enhancing an area with new plantings,



wood chips and a Sharpen the Saw sign - Habit 7.

In Ms. Walkley's Special Needs classrooms, students have experienced great success with *The Leader in Me* both inside and outside the classroom. Every day they discuss the habits that impact their lives. Likewise, Ferry students in other classes have had the opportunity to spend time with Ms. Walkley's students in NESTS (small groups from all grades and classes), and getting to know their special classmates using Habit 5, *Seek First To Understand, Then To Be Understood*.

What Are Your Favorite "Habits"?

Ferry Students:

"Be Proactive – I wake up an hour early now because I need quiet time before school to think about my math facts."

"Put First Things First –In Nature Club we plan before we execute our projects."

"Synergize – My friend is a better 'drawer' and I am better at 'coloring in'. So, she draws the posters and I color them.

Ferry Teacher:

"On a professional level, *The Leader In Me* has given a common verbiage to our community. Be it with colleagues or students a simple phrase like "Put First Things First" can bring us all back to the task at hand when we live in a busy world where it is so easy to get sidetracked. The *The Leader In Me* philosophy and strategies have made my days more productive, successful and satisfying."